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JANET NAPOLITANO, GOVERNOR
SUSAN GERARD, DIRECTOR

September 12, 2007

Dear Licensed Midwife,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information about the midwifery rules. The Arizona Department of Health Services (Department) constantly reviews its rules and has determined that the midwifery rules should be updated to meet the current practices in your profession.

The Department is currently working on a rules draft to amend R9-16-101 through R9-16-105.01, which includes the qualifications for a license, initial licensing application, licensing examination, renewal licensing application, continuing education, and time-frames. The Department created a website, http://www.azdhs.gov/diro/admin_rules/midwifery.htm, where the Department will post the draft, once it is completed, and request informal comments on the draft from the public. The Department will consider the comments and make changes the Department determines are necessary. A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking will then be filed with the Secretary of State, containing the proposed rules and the date for an oral proceeding. Within 120 days after the oral proceeding, a Notice of Final Rulemaking will be submitted to the Governor's Regulatory Review Council for approval of the rules.


Once the rulemaking amending R9-16-101 through R9-16-105.01 is completed, the Department will begin a second rulemaking to amend R9-16-106 through R9-16-111, which includes midwifery scope of practice and enforcement actions.

Your comments are very important to us and will help us make some important rulemaking decisions. Please share this information with all of your colleagues and visit the Department's website often to view the rulemaking updates. If you have any questions about the rulemaking process, please contact Thomas Salow, Rules Analyst, at 602-364-1935.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Phillips, Esq.
Rules Administrator and Administrative Counsel



Mary Wiley
Assistant Director